

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line  
28 as follows:

Fig. 1 is a chart showing the time course of  
the ultraviolet absorption (260 nm) of a naturally  
occurring oligonucleotide (SEQ ID NO:10) decomposed with  
an exonuclease; and

Fig. 2 is a chart showing the time course of  
the ultraviolet absorption (260 nm) of an oligonucleotide  
of the present invention (X2) (SEQ ID NO:11) decomposed  
with an exonuclease.